

ETS AND
LUNG CANCER IN NONSMOKERS

VOLUME I

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PRIMARY EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES ON ETS AND LUNG CANCER

Introduction

Currently, 29 epidemiologic studies examining lung cancer incidence and spousal smoking have been published.¹⁻²⁹ Tables 1, 2 and 3 list the United States, Asian and European studies, respectively. For purposes of comparison, the relative risks (point estimates) given in the tables are the overall point estimates for spousal smoking reported in the papers. In some cases, the risk in the table was selected from numerous point estimates presented in the paper, based on different definitions of exposure, breakdown of the sample by histological type, etc.

Brief synopses and copies of the papers associated with these studies follow this introduction, at Tabs 1 to 29, arranged in chronological order. The copies are highlighted in yellow for useful information and in blue for negative statements.

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United States Studies

Ten of these studies on spousal smoking and lung cancer in nonsmokers (one cohort, nine case-control) were conducted in the United States (Table 1).^{3,5,7-9,11,14,16,24,25} None of the relative risks (RR) for spousal smoking reported in these studies is statistically significant. The most recently published paper, that by Janerich, et al., is based upon an unpublished dissertation by Luis Varela.²⁴ The Janerich, et al., paper discusses a subset of Varela's case-control study, and reports no statistically significant increased risk for spousal smoking, workplace exposure, or exposure in social settings. (It does, however, report a statistically significant increased risk for exposure during childhood (see below).) Overall, the Varela study is important because of its large size and appropriate study design.

Table 1. United States Studies of Spousal Smoking in Women

<u>Study</u>	<u>Risk Estimate(s)</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Garfinkel, 1981	1.27 (95% CI 0.85-1.89) 1.10 (95% CI 0.77-1.61)	Large cohort study; results contrast with Hirayama
Correa, et al., 1983	2.07 (no CI; n.s.)	Extremely small sample size
Buffler, et al., 1984	0.78 (95% CI 0.34-1.81)	
Kabat and Wynder, 1984	not given	No significant differences between cases and controls regarding ETS exposure at home
Garfinkel, et al., 1985	1.23 (95% CI 0.94-1.60)	Numerous odds ratios presented
Wu, et al., 1985	1.2 (95% CI 0.5-3.3)	Adenocarcinoma only
Brownson, et al., 1987	1.68 (95% CI 0.39-2.97)	Hours per day as exposure category; adenocarcinoma only
Humble, et al., 1987	1.8 (95% CI 0.6-5.4)	
Varela, 1987	numerous	No statistically significant point estimate was presented in 73 different measures of spousal smoking
Janerich, et al., 1990	0.93 (95% CI 0.55-1.57)	Published data for subset of Varela, 1987
Kabat, 1990	0.90 (95% CI 0.46-1.76)	Study in progress; surrogate is "exposed in adulthood at home"

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Asian Studies

In contrast, 13 epidemiologic studies on spousal smoking and lung cancer in nonsmokers (one cohort, twelve case-control) have been conducted in China and Japan (hereafter, "Asian studies") (Table 2).^{1,4,10,12,15,17,18,20-22,27,28,29} Of this group, several studies report statistically significant relative risks. However, none of the reported relative risks is greater than 2.5; relative risks under 3.0 have been described as "weak" (see Criticisms section in this notebook). Of particular interest is the 1990 paper by Wu-Williams, et al., conducted in northeastern China.²⁸ This paper reports a statistically significant negative risk associated with ETS exposure. Other factors (particularly indoor air quality) were reported to be associated with an elevated risk of lung cancer in the Wu-Williams, et al., study; such confounders were not always accounted for in the other Asian studies (see section on Confounders in this notebook).

Table 2. Asian Studies of Spousal Smoking in Women

<u>Study</u>	<u>Point Estimate(s)</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Hirayama, 1981	2.08 (no CI)	Large cohort study; heavily criticized for improper age-standardization and other flaws
Hirayama, 1984	1.45 (90% CI 1.04-2.02)	Further report on above study
Chan and Fung, 1982	not given	Negative association; suggests more "passive smokers" among controls than cases
Lam, W.K., 1985	not given	Unpublished dissertation; suggests that spousal smoking may be associated with peripheral adenocarcinoma
Akiba, et al., 1986	1.5 (90% CI 1.0-2.5)	Study of atom bomb survivors
Gao, et al., 1987	0.9 (95% CI 0.6-1.4)	"Overall exposure" as surrogate
Koo, et al., 1987	1.64 (95% CI 0.87-3.09)	
Lam, T.H., et al., 1987	1.65 (95% CI 1.16-2.35)	
Geng, et al., 1988	2.16 (95% CI 1.03-4.53)	
Inoue and Hirayama, 1988	2.25 (95% CI 0.91-7.10)	Very small sample size
Shimizu, et al., 1988	1.1 (no CI; n.s.)	Reported statistically significant elevated risks for smoking by case's mother or case's husband's father

<u>Study</u>	<u>Point Estimate(s)</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Sobue, et al., 1990	0.94 (95% CI 0.62-1.40)	
Wu-Williams, et al., 1990	0.7 (95% CI 0.6-0.9)	Point estimate is statistically significantly negative
Liu, et al., 1991	0.77 (95% CI 0.30-1.96)	Presence of at least one smoker in household used as surrogate

European Studies

Six studies on spousal smoking and nonsmoker lung cancer were conducted in Europe (Table 3).^{2,7,13,19,23,26} Statistical significance was reported in two studies, both by the same research group.^{2,26} No major cohort study has yet been conducted in Europe. The cohort studied by Gillis, et al., and Hole, et al., although large, has few lung cancer deaths.⁷

Table 3. European Studies of Spousal Smoking in Women

<u>Study</u>	<u>Risk Estimate</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Trichopoulos, et al., 1981	2.4 (no CI)	Greece; small case-control study; has been heavily criticized
Trichopoulos, et al., 1983	2.4 (no CI) 3.4 (no CI)	Additional cases and controls added since first paper
Gillis, et al., 1984	not given	Scotland; cohort study; very few lung cancer death (4 cases, 4 controls in women)
Hole, et al., 1989	2.41 (95% CI 0.45-12.83)	Continuation of Gillis, et al., 1984
Lee, et al., 1986	1.00 (95% CI 0.37-2.71)	England
Pershagen, et al., 1987	1.2 (95% CI 0.7-2.1)	Sweden
Svensson, et al., 1989	1.2 (95% CI 0.4-2.9)	Sweden; surrogate is "exposure as adult at home or at work"
Kalandidi, et al., 1990	1.92 (95% CI 1.02-3.59)	Greece; related to Trichopoulos study

Childhood Exposure to ETS and Adult Lung Cancer in Nonsmokers

When the Janerich, et al., paper was published in 1990, the media focused on a single statistically significant risk ratio (OR) reported by the authors, i.e., an estimated OR of 2.07 (95% CI 1.16-3.68) for "household exposure to 25 or more smoker-years during childhood and adolescence."²⁴ This OR is the only statistically significant estimate out of 13 exposure categories in the paper. A single statistically significant point estimate could have easily occurred by chance alone in a set of analyses this large.

Only a few other studies have included questions concerning exposure to ETS during childhood, i.e., parental smoking. 5,9,11,12,15,23,25,27 Regarding these studies, Ernst Wynder and Geoffrey Kabat wrote in a 1990 publication:

No consistent association has been reported for lung cancer and exposure to ETS in childhood, which might be expected to exert a greater effect, especially when followed by exposure throughout adulthood. Of course, recall of ETS exposure in childhood is more difficult than recall of such exposure in adulthood.

(Wynder, E.L. and Kabat, G.C., "Environmental Tobacco Smoke and Lung Cancer: A Critical Assessment," Indoor Air Quality, ed. H. Kasuga (Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 1990): 5-15.)

Table 4 presents the reported risk estimates from the studies (9 to-date) which discuss childhood ETS exposure and lung

cancer in nonsmokers. The studies are arranged chronologically in the table. The abbreviation "n.s." stands for "not significant."

Table 4. Childhood Exposure to ETS and Adult Nonsmoker Lung Cancer Risk

<u>Study</u>	<u>Point Estimate</u>	<u>Statistical Significance</u>
Correa, et al., 1983	not given	n.s.
Garfinkel, et al., 1985 females	0.91 (95% CI 0.74-1.12)	n.s.
Wu, et al., 1985 females	0.6 (95% CI 0.2-1.7)	n.s.
Akiba, et al., 1986	not given	n.s.
Gao, et al., 1987 females	1.1 (95% CI 0.7-1.7)	n.s.
Svensson, et al., 1989 females, father's smoking	0.9 (95% CI 0.4-2.3)	n.s.
females, mother's smoking	3.3 (95% CI 0.5-18.8)	n.s.
Janerich, et al., 1990 1-24 smoker/yrs exposure	1.09 (95% CI 0.68-1.73)	n.s.
≥ 25 smoker/yrs exposure	2.07 (95% CI 1.16-3.68)	significantly positive
Kabat, et al., 1990 males	0.73 (95% CI 0.34-1.59)	n.s.
females	1.68 (95% CI 0.86-3.27)	n.s.
Sobue, et al., 1990 father's smoking	0.60 (95% CI 0.40-0.91)	significantly negative
mother's smoking	1.71 (95% CI 0.95-3.10)	n.s.
other household members	1.13 (95% CI 0.69-1.87)	n.s.

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Exposure to ETS in the Workplace and Lung Cancer in Nonsmokers

The issue of ETS in the workplace is currently a focus of public interest, as evidenced by the 1990 draft Guide to Workplace Smoking Policies prepared by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This document is based on the EPA's draft risk assessment, which used data from epidemiologic studies which assessed ETS exposure in terms of spousal smoking, not smoking in the workplace.

The current epidemiologic data on workplace exposures to ETS and lung cancer in nonsmokers are reported in eleven studies which examined workplace exposure via questionnaire.^{8,9,11,13,17,22-26,28} None of these studies provides adequate support for an increased risk of lung cancer associated with ETS exposure in the workplace. Only one study reports a single marginally statistically significant risk. The point estimates of the studies (in chronological order) are presented in Table 5. (In the table, "n.s." stands for "not significant.")

Table 5. Exposure to ETS in the Workplace and Lung Cancer Risk in Nonsmokers

<u>Study</u>	<u>Point Estimate</u>	<u>Statistical Significance</u>
Kabat and Wynder, 1984		
males	18/25 cases vs. 11/25 controls	marginally significant
females	26/53 cases vs. 31/53 controls	n.s.
Garfinkel, et al., 1985		
females, 5 yr exposure	0.88 (95% CI 0.66-1.18)	n.s.
females, 25 yr exposure	0.93 (95% CI 0.73-1.18)	n.s.
Wu, et al., 1985		
females	1.3 (95% CI 0.5-3.3)	n.s.
Lee, et al., 1986	several indices	all n.s.
Koo, et al., 1987		
females	several ORs	all n.s.
Shimizu, et al., 1988		
females	1.2 (no CI given)	n.s.
Svensson, et al., 1989		
females, at home <u>or</u> at work	1.2 (95% CI 0.4-2.9)	n.s.
females, at home <u>and</u> at work	2.1 (95% CI 0.6-8.1)	n.s.
Janerich, et al., 1990		
150 person/yrs exposure	0.91 (95% CI 0.80-1.09)	n.s.
Varela, 1987	27 analyses	all n.s.
Kabat, 1990		
males	0.98 (95% CI 0.46-2.10)	n.s.
females	1.00 (95% CI 0.49-2.06)	n.s.

<u>Study</u>	<u>Point Estimate</u>	<u>Statistical Significance</u>
Kalandidi, et al., 1990 females	1.08 (95% CI 0.24-4.87)	n.s.
Wu-Williams, et al., 1990 females	1.1 (95% CI 0.9-1.6)	n.s.

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